

Please contact us for
more information regarding the

**YOUTH FIRESETTER
PREVENTION PROGRAM.**

Our personnel are available
to provide appropriate
fire safety education.

*And remember, this program's
success depends on
a team effort between
you, your family, and the HFD.*



Honolulu Fire Department
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HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
Fire Prevention Bureau



**YOUTH FIRESETTER
PREVENTION PROGRAM**



OVERVIEW

The Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) wants to prevent tragedies caused by children setting fires, so we are offering a free one-on-one voluntary intervention program for families whose children are at risk and continue to play with fire.

BACKGROUND

Children between the ages of three to ten are naturally curious about fire and may secretly experiment with lighters or matches, if given the opportunity. The fires often occur when a child is unsupervised, although an adult may be present nearby. Teenagers are more likely to conduct fire "experiments" outdoors, which may lead to criminal behavior, such as vandalism. This behavior may be a "cry for help" due to

family, social, or psychological problems.

Youths may also be setting fires due to stress.

National studies have shown that children who set fires are likely to continue this pattern unless they are appropriately educated and supervised.

PROGRAM

The goals of this program are to: reduce the chances a child will continue to set fires, educate children on the dangers of starting fires, teach home fire safety to adults, and address supervision issues.

The program begins with a telephone call to our Fire Education Office at 831-7786.

Parents/guardians may also be contacted by our staff if it has been determined that their child started a fire. A meeting will be arranged with the child, his or her parents or guardians, and trained fire fighters who have volunteered

to assist with this program. This meeting may be held in the child's home, school, or another mutually agreed upon location.

The child and his or her family will be interviewed to better understand the child's personal situation and specific needs. In most cases, the child and family members will receive fire safety education. If needed, a follow-up meeting will be scheduled.

In some instances, a child or family member may have underlying issues that contribute to the child's firesetting. The HFD is not qualified to resolve these issues; therefore, alternate treatment or resources for the child and family may be suggested.

